

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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SUBJ: GOM CONCLUDES BRIEFING ON ECHEVERRIA FOREIGN POLICY

REF: MEXICO 5207

1. THE BRIEFING CONFERENCE DESCRIBED IN REFTEL CONCLUDED ON SECOND DAY, JUNE 13. BESIDES GOM WOMEN OFFICIALS AND OTHERS, WIVES OF DIPLOMATIC CHIEFS OF MISSION WERE INVITED. MRS. JOVA ATTENDED BOTH SESSIONS; HER PRESENCE WAS NOTED AND NO DOUBT APPRECIATED BY BOTH MRS. ECHEVERRIA AND WIFE OF FONSEC RABASA. SHE PROVIDED EMBOFFS MUCH INFORMATION AND HELPFUL INSIGHT INTO NATURE AND FLAVOR OF MEETING. GENERAL ATTENDANCE DROPPED OFF CONSIDERABLY AFTER FIRST DAY. DIPLOMATIC WIVES PRESENT ON SECOND DAY INCLUDED BESIDES US, RUMANIA, YUGOSLAVIA, POLAND, CUBA, PHILIPPINES, FINLAND, TURKEY, HOLLAND AND BRAZIL (PART TIME), DENMARK (SLEPT THROUGH IT ALL), ITALY, AND ISRAEL, BUT NOT CHINESE OR RUSSIANS.

2. HIGHLIGHTS OF REMARKS BY SPEAKERS WERE AS FOLLOWS.

A. MRS. ECHEVERRIA AND FONSEC RABASA: SEE REFTEL.

B. FOREIGN SECRETARIAT DIRECTOR IN CHIEF GONZALEZ GALVEZ:
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THOUGH CHARTER OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF STATES (CERDS)

WAS APPROVED BY 130 COUNTRIES, AND THOSE NOT APPROVING DISAGREED ONLY ON "MINOR DETAILS", MUCH NEGOTIATION ON CERDS REMAINS AND IMPLEMENTATION WILL BE A PROBLEM.

C. FOREIGN SECRETARIAT UNDERSECRETARY GALLASTEGUI:
MEXICO DOES NOT EXPECT PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT FROM U.S.
MANY PROBLEMS HAVE BEEN SOLVED, E.G. COLORADO RIVER SALINITY;
OTHERS REMAIN, E.G. MIGRANT WORKERS (APPLAUSE), BUT RELATIONS ARE GOOD.

3. THOUGH MUCH OF PRESENTATION BY FOREIGN SECRETARIAT OFFICIALS WAS LUCID AND INFORMATIVE, THERE WAS STRONG ELEMENT OF ADULATION AND SYCOPHANCY IN REMARKS OF VARIOUS OFFICIALS. THERE WAS USUALLY APPLAUSE WHEN MRS. ECHEVERRIA'S NAME WAS MENTIONED; SHE WOULD RISE IN RESPONSE AND THIS WOULD BRING AUDIENCE TO THEIR FEET IN SOMEWHAT RAGGED FASHION. AS NOTED IN REFTTEL, MRS. ECHEVERRIA LED APPLAUSE WHEN REFERENCE WAS MADE TO GOM'S ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS WITH NORTH AND SOUTH VIETNAM. BEFORE SHOWING OF FILMS WHICH CONCLUDED MEETING, MRS. ECHEVERRIA SENT FOR WIFE OF CUBAN AMBASSADOR, TO JOIN HER. AT CLOSE OF MEETING, MRS. ECHEVERRIA (ACCORDING TO PRESS) SUMMED UP HER CAPSULE VIEW OF A MAJOR OBJECTIVE IN HER HUSBAND'S FOREIGN POLICY WITH THE SLOGAN: "THE CHARTER (OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF STATES) OR WAR. (PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA HAS ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS EXPRESSED THE SAME VIEW, I.E., THAT BARRING FULL ACCEPTANCE AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRINCIPLES CONTAINED IN THE CHARTER, THE WORLD IS DRIFTING TOWARD WAR.

4. COMMENT: DESPITE THE EXCESSIVE PRAISE OF THE ECHEVERRIA'S AND THE SOMEWHAT TIRESOME REPETITION OF GOM THIRD WORLD RHETORIC, THE MEETING WAS CLEARLY A RATHER SHREWD EFFORT BY THE GOM TO BRIEF AND INDOCTRINATE ITS WOMEN OFFICIALS (AND OTHERS) ON THE GENERAL LINES AND SPECIFICS OF ECHEVERRIA'S FOREIGN POLICY. IT WAS PARTICULARLY TIMELY ON THE EVE OF WCIWY.
JOVA

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